

T.I. BACKGROUND MATERIAL ON
INGREDIENTS USED IN CIGARETTE MANUFACTURE

The six major United States cigarette manufacturers recently have made available to representatives of the Department of HHS a list of ingredients commonly added to tobacco in the manufacture of cigarettes for the United States market. This information has been provided voluntarily by the manufacturers, pursuant to an agreement between the Department and the manufacturers designed to protect the proprietary interests that are involved.

To put the matter of cigarette ingredients in perspective, a few basic points must be emphasized.

1. The cigarette manufacturers that are members of The Tobacco Institute are not aware of any scientific evidence that the flavorings in domestic U.S. cigarettes involve any hazard to health. There is, in fact, legitimate ground for asking whether this subject merits the attention it has recently received. In this connection, it should be noted that two scientists who were extensively involved in the government's programs dealing with cigarettes made the following statement in a letter published by the Journal of the American Medical Association in 1979:

"We know of no scientific evidence that today's additives increase the toxicity of cigarette smoke."

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2. Many of the flavorings that are used in today's American cigarettes, and which probably comprise well over 90 percent of the ingredients added to domestic U.S. cigarettes, have been in use for decades. The finest tobaccos have always been the essence of the U.S. cigarette. Flavorings merely fine-tune the taste and the introduction of new flavorings represents a continuing refinement. It is our understanding that relatively few new flavorings have been added to cigarettes and that these are used in small amounts, primarily to further fine-tune and enhance taste and smoking quality. As we have mentioned, there is no reason to believe that they should present any health issue beyond the basic controversy about cigarette smoking and health. Our members inform us that the flavorings or other ingredients used furnish no legitimate basis for an argument that they increase the alleged adverse effects of cigarette smoking on health.

3. We are informed that every cigarette manufacturer carefully evaluates information regarding any new flavoring proposed to be added to any of its cigarettes. An important aspect is the review of the published scientific literature. Various lists of ingredients that have been reviewed and approved for human use, such as the Food and Drug Administration Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) list and the Flavorings and Extracts Manufacturers Association list, are also considered, as are the listings of ingredients approved for use in cigarettes by the Hunter Committee in

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the United Kingdom and by the Health Office of the Federal Republic of West Germany. The companies also consider other available knowledge, including the opinions of company scientists with special expertise in tobacco chemistry.

4. The list of commonly added ingredients that recently has been made available to the Department of HHS continues the spirit of voluntary cooperation that has existed with respect to this matter between the cigarette manufacturers and the Department. The officials who have represented the Department in discussions concerning cigarette ingredients have recognized that the precise listing of ingredients used in individual brands of cigarettes has considerable competitive significance and thus qualifies as a trade secret. An agreement that was entered into by the manufacturers and the Department in June 1982 is designed to protect these important trade secrets while satisfying the Department's expressed desire for additional information concerning cigarette ingredients. The list of ingredients that recently has been made available to the Department was pursuant to this agreement.

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